

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Hungary	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Cost of Living	DATE DISTR.	16 June 1953	
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The cost of living in Hungary in April 1952 was high. When salaries were raised by 15 - 21% throughout the country in December 1951, the cost of living went up 50-100 %.

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2. salary in March 1952 was 1,350 forints per month. At the same time a worker in the iron industry received from 700-1,000 forints per month.

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3. The following are examples of prices at that time for various necessities:

a. Food:	one kilogram of meat	35-40 forints
	one kilogram of boiled or smoked meat	57 forints
	one kilogram of pork sausage	76 forints
	one kilogram of winter salami	105 forints
	one kilogram of fat	35 forints
	one kilogram of butter	76 forints
	one kilogram of flour	8 forints

b. Clothing:	an average new suit	2,500 forints
	a pair of average-quality shoes	700 forints
	a poplin shirt	250 forints

4. In addition to the bare necessities which a worker could hardly afford, he had to pay various kinds of dues out of his salary. When pay day came the worker was immediately besieged by dues collectors for the following organizations: the Hungarian Workers' Party, his trade union, the Hungarian Freedom Fighters Association, and, in the case of women, also the Hungarian Democratic Women's Association. He was also pestered by advance subscription collectors for such publications as:

a. Szabad Nép
b. Tartos Bekeert Népi Demokracia

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STATE	#x	ARMY	#x	NAVY	#x	AIR	#x	FBI		AEC					
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

25X1

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-2-

25X1

- c. Anyagi Adatszolgaltatas
 - d. Magyar Tarsadalmi Szemle
 - e. Ujvilag
 - f. The Magyar ~~Szabadseg~~ Szoevetség publication
 - g. various pamphlets and publications of Party schools
5. From the worker's gross salary there were such deductions as: installment for subscription to the "Peace Loan", rent, fuel, and old age pension payment. Further, payment was deducted in advance for lunches at his place of work. If the worker had small children, payment for their care in the nursery was also deducted in advance.
6. Rents were high in Hungary A worker usually lived in an apartment consisting of one room and kitchen. His rent for such an apartment was 80 to 100 forints per month. A two room apartment with kitchen, bath room and closets cost about 200 forints per month. The government planned to raise rents by 20-75% beginning 1 May 1952.

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